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STATE DOCUMENTS

South Carolina State Library Board

## NEWS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIANS

November 1959

28th Issue

### A MEETING IMPORTANT TO PUBLIC LIBRARIANS

The annual meeting of the South Carolina Committee on Children and Youth will be held at the Wade Hampton Hotel in Columbia on November 18th. At this meeting a progress report will be made on the 1960 White House Conference and on the surveys made by local White House Conference Committees in each of South Carolina's 46 counties. Of major importance will be the distribution of the South Carolina report on the White House Conference Surveys. Public librarians are urged to attend this meeting if they can possibly arrange to do so, since the meeting presents an opportunity to find out at first hand where the library can best fit into the program of realizing goals set by the South Carolina White House Conference Committees. The meeting begins at 10:00 and will be adjourned at 12:45.

### AAUW BACKS LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT

The American Association of University Women's state board meeting held in Columbia October 10 featured the subject "AAUW Looks at South Carolina's Libraries." Miss Emily Sanders, Librarian of the Charleston County Free Library, spoke on the present status of public libraries in the state pointing out inadequacies in support, book stock, etc., as measured by national standards. Miss Josephine Crouch, Director of the Aiken-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library, told the meeting the value of state and federal aid in improving the quality of library service. Consultants for the ensuing discussion were Miss Nancy Jane Day, State School Library Supervisor, and Miss Estellene P. Walker, Director of the State Library Board. In conclusion a resolution, committing the AAUW to providing leadership in promoting adequate libraries in South Carolina, was passed unanimously by the board.



The meeting was widely reported in the press and provoked some interesting results. The Charleston News & Courier struck out editorially at what it called "Library Scare Talk," criticizing the references to national standards. It said that "'standards' should be set in terms of what a community can afford" and concluded with the statement, "In libraries as well as in other fields we advise South Carolinians not to be stampeded into spending by fear of being behind the times." Miss Mary Maxine Larisey, Past President, S. C. Division of AAUW, in answer wrote that the newspaper's statement "is inconsistent with improved economic conditions in South Carolina" and quoted a member's remark, "'we afford what we want.'"

The Orangeburg Times & Democrat's editor, commenting on "South Carolina's Library Scandal," took a different view, stating that there is too much illiteracy in South Carolina, and that "we do not place enough encouragement and emphasis on good reading and the availability of a wide selection of books which constitute good reading." The editor further declared that good library service is "a vital consideration in obtaining new industry, for any large industry which seeks to settle in Orangeburg will be interested in such things as adequate library facilities."

In Greenville, where the AAUW's interest in the improvement of libraries originated as a result of that Chapter's participation in the White House Conference survey, response was quick. The local chapter on October 13 resolved to "study library needs of Greenville County and explore the possibility of a steering committee with leadership in AAUW to promote an educational movement which might lead to legislative action." The latest report is that Rep. B.O. Thomason, Jr., has announced his intention of asking the appointment of a County Legislative Delegation Committee to "look into the needs" of the Greenville Public Library.

#### SCLA CONVENTION

Mrs. Marguerite G. Thompson, Librarian, Colleton County Library, was elected president of the South Carolina Library Association for 1960 at the thirty-eighth annual meeting at Clemson House, Clemson, S. C., October 30-31, 1959. Other 1960 officers are Mary Grey Withers, Librarian Wardlaw Junior High School, Columbia, S. C., Vice-President and president - elect, James M. Hillard, Librarian, the Citadel, Charleston, S. C., Secretary, and Mrs. Ruth T. Turner, Librarian, Southside Elementary School, Spartanburg, S. C., re-elected Treasurer. Dr. Robert Tucker, Librarian, Furman University Library, Greenville, S. C. will succeed Miss Emily Sanders, Librarian, Charleston County Free Library, as ALA Councilor at the conclusion of the June 1960 meeting of ALA.

The president, Mr. J. W. Gordon Gourlay, Librarian, Clemson College, opened the conference at an 11 o'clock general session and introduced Dr. J. K. Williams, Dean of the Graduate School, Clemson College.



Dr. Williams in an address, The Librarian and the Book Review, stressed the sad state into which book reviews had fallen.

At the banquet, Dr. Benjamin E. Powell, Librarian, Duke University and President of the American Library Association, mentioned in connection with the conference theme, Forward with Libraries, that there could be no progress without libraries. Dr. Powell reviewed the past history of libraries in the state, spoke of their present status and indicated the expansion of the future.

Those attending the business session heard reports of standing committees and adopted the report of the constitutional revision committee.

The conference concluded with a luncheon meeting at which Dr. Robert D. Bass, professor of English at Furman University, spoke entertainingly on the history of his research for his books, The Green Dragon and The Swamp Fox.

#### WORKSHOP ON LIBRARY SERVICE TO CHILDREN

Mrs. Eulalie Steinmetz Ross, Director of Work with Children, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, was the able consultant for the workshop attended by some fifty-six librarians who work with children. From the very first session, Mrs. Ross captivated the participants by her charm, ability and understanding.

She served as moderator of the panel composed of Mrs. Vernon Brunson, Miss Margaret Mahon and Miss Madeleine Mosimann who discussed book selection policies and practices.

Methods of interpretation of literature to children were explored by discussion groups led by Mrs. William Foran, Miss Anne Harper, and Miss Nancy Blair.

After an informal dinner, Mrs. Ross spoke on story telling, its history and its use, and delightfully illustrated its art by telling "The Christmas Apple" by Ruth Sawyer. At the final session Mrs. Ross spoke on the methods of reaching the non-reader.

Mrs. Elizabeth B. Green was chairman of the Workshop Committee and presided over the meetings. Serving on the Committee with Mrs. Green were Miss Mary Aiken, Miss Margaret Mahon, Mrs. Nancy Mims and Miss Frances Reid.



## PUBLIC LIBRARY SECTION

The highlight of the Public Library Section meeting Friday afternoon, October 30, was Mrs. Eulalie Steinmetz Ross' address "Vitalizing Dead Wood." Mrs. Ross discussed the reasons why children's books become dead wood and what librarians can do to bring new life into their collections.

Following her talk, the annual business session was held. The Section heard and accepted the reports of the Workshop Committee and Book Selection Policy Committee. It gave its approval to the State Library Board's plans for a study preliminary to a certification program for public librarians and also to the Trustee Section's recommendation for establishment of a committee to award future trustee citations. In answer to the Chairman's request for suggestions for next year's work, proposals were advanced for a legislative committee, a committee to cooperate with the SCLA Recruiting Committee and also with the State Library Board in promoting the junior intern program, and a joint committee with the School Library Section to study the problem of curriculum-related reference service to school children.

Miss Carrie Gene Ashley, Coordinator of Adult Services, Aiken-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library, was re-elected Chairman of the Section. Other officers elected were Vice-Chairman, Miss Elizabeth L. Porcher, Librarian, Greenwood City and County Public Library, and Secretary, Mrs. Vernon Brunson, Librarian, Allendale-Hampton-Jasper Regional Library.

## TRUSTEE SECTION

The Trustee Section of the SCLA convened at a luncheon meeting held during the annual session of the Association at Clemson. Mr. W.B.S. Winans, Chairman of the Section, presided. During the session the recently formulated Constitution and By-laws for the Section were presented to the membership and adopted. Mrs. Girdler B. Fitch, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers who were elected unanimously to serve during 1960:

Mrs. John D. Smith of Spartanburg, Chairman  
Mrs. T. A. Black of Colleton County, Vice-Chairman and Chairman-elect  
Mrs. Ora H. Kirkley of Pickens County, Secretary

Following the business meeting, in the absence of the program speaker, Lt. Governor Burnet R. Maybank, Jr., the group heard a report on the development of the program being conducted by the State Library Board



under the provisions of the Library Services Act. Approximately 65 trustees attended the luncheon meeting among whom were representatives from the following counties: Aiken, Anderson, Barnwell, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Colleton, Edgefield, Greenville, Greenwood, Lancaster, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, and the State Library Board.

#### **RICHER BY ASIA**

RICHER BY ASIA is a selected bibliography of books and other materials for promoting West-East understanding among young adults. It describes in detail 80 books chosen for inherent worth and appeal to teenagers on Asian themes. Notes indicate passages which are especially effective in book talks and discussion programs. It is available from the ALA for \$1.25.

In connection with this project Edwin Randall who produces THIS IS A FRIENDLY WORLD series at CBS in Philadelphia, has made and taped a series on Asia and Asians. As of October 1959 the first series of Asia tapes had been sent to the following South Carolina radio stations: WKDK, Newberry and WANW, Seneca.

Other stations or libraries interested in obtaining these tapes can obtain information about the cost and arrangements from Mr. Edwin Randall, 122 N. Providence Road, Wallingford, Pa.

#### **LIBERAL ADULT EDUCATION BY FAE**

Are discussion groups your bugabear? Send for the list of program materials prepared by the Fund for Adult Education. Here are planned discussion programs on subjects within the reach and interest of any literate adult. Recording, films, filmstrips and slides are provided to spark discussions and relieve the need for trained leaders. For more information write to: Study-Discussion Programs, Fund for Adult Education, 200 Bloomingdale Road, White Plains, N. Y.

#### **SPARTANBURG MOTHERS LIKE "STORY HOUR"**

The Spartanburg Public Library reports that its discussion group for mothers of pre-school children, which grew from a coffee break, is off to an enthusiastic second year. The mothers meet in the library every week to talk about books, civic programs, current topics and other subjects selected by a committee, while their youngsters are entertained at story hour.



## DISPLAY GUIDE

Quick 'n Easy compiled by Mary Graham Stewart for the Louisiana Library Association has sketches and instructions for 150 effective exhibit and bulletin board ideas. All can be prepared from easily available materials by a person with minimum artistic talent and manual dexterity. Price \$1.50. Order direct from: Mary Graham Stewart, Box 131, Baton Rouge, La.

## FOR RECRUITERS

Adrian A. Paradis. Librarians Wanted; Careers in Library Science. McKay, c1959.

Written by a graduate of the Columbia University's School of Library Service who is also the author of several career books for teenagers, this is the story of public, college, school, government, business, medical, legal and other special libraries. It describes for career-minded young people the kind of work done by each type of librarian, the opportunities and rewards offered, the training required, and the real personal satisfaction to be found in librarianship. Free of the dust and dowdiness associated in the public mind with all libraries, this will be a welcome aid for all recruiters.

## HAVE YOU SEEN?

Set of four Beatrix Potter illustrations, \$1.40. Order from Frederick Warne & Co., 210 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, New York.

Packet of bulletin board display materials featuring books for children of pre-school age through 4th grade; bookmarks featuring several authors and their books; and, on loan, a 10" LP record of Marguerite deAngeli, Nancy Faulkner, Dorothy Sterling, Myron Ehrenberg, and Winifred Lubell discussing their work. (A display accompanies the record.) Free. Order from Doubleday and Co., Inc., Attn: Lou Ann Gaeddert, 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York.

Poster showing all of Caldecott Award winners in full color. Free. Order from any binder who uses Treasure Trove Illustrated Covers. See list in Junior Libraries, September 1959.



## SYMPATHY

Dear Anne:

Librarians extend sympathy to Miss Lois Barbare, State Library Board, on the death of her sister, Mrs. Earl Taylor, Taylors, South Carolina, which occurred November 2.

Public librarians will regret to learn that Mrs. Gladys Archer Dean, Librarian, Jasper County Library, died in the Ridgeland Hospital on October 21. She had been in declining health for several years.

## YOUR PROBLEMS

BY

Anne Library

Dear Clumney:

Dear Anne:

Entirely by accident yesterday I overheard two of my staff discussing what they consider a fault of mine. I realize, of course, that any administrator is fair game for the staff's complaints but this particular criticism took me by surprise. The gist of the complaint seemed to be that I do not always remember to say good morning to everyone. Why should I? Isn't this greeting just understood among people who work together? Why repeat the good morning ritual every day with everybody? It only uses time and is such a bother!

Target

Dear Target:

You will get no sympathy here--only another dart. It takes very little time or effort to speak to each of your staff as you see them for the first time every day. This ritual, as you call it, serves a useful purpose in getting the day off to a good start. It is actually no more than common courtesy, and courtesy is one of the elements of which that fragile structure, staff morale, is built.



Dear Anne:

Since displays and exhibits have always been my Waterloo, I was certainly relieved to hear what Mrs. Ross had to say on the subject. Were you at the workshop to hear her, too? She said that if you did not have a sense of color or other artistic ability, that a room neatly kept, with a few books standing up (at eye level) to draw attention to them and a bowl of flowers or leaves to serve as decoration, could be as attractive as any with a display. The standing books have to be changed often and the flowers, too, but that is easy.

Clumsy

Dear Clumsy:

Yes, no display is better than a tacky or junky one and good house-keeping is a prime requisite for all libraries whether there are displays or not.

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Do you have a problem? Write to Anne Library.

#### SEEN HERE AND THERE

Miss Marie-Louise Britsch, USIS Library, Paris, visiting S. C. public libraries. Miss Britsch spent a week in this state during which she was shown the Richland County Public Library, the Lexington County Circulating Library and the Aiken-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library.

Mrs. M. H. Mims, Librarian of the Edgefield County Library, arranging a special display of old books in French for Miss Britsch's visit.

The Spartanburg Public Library issuing an attractive five-color brochure, An Open Door, which describes library services and resources and lists staff and hours, etc. Another Spartanburg publication is a reading list, From the Wonderful World of Books.

The Colleton County Memorial Library Commission meeting to discuss the possibility of entering a regional library system.

The Bamberg County Library Board also thinking about joining a region.



The Pickens County Library planning the purchase of a new bookmobile.

State Library Board staff members at Ft. Motte's annual oyster roast and shrimp boil. Mrs. Clara T. McCabe, Calhoun County Librarian, is one of the prime sponsors of this event (a benefit for St. Matthews Episcopal Church) which attracts gourmets and gourmands from all over central S. C.

Charleston's three Great Books groups opening the fall season with discussions of Boswell's Life of Johnson, Balzac's Pere Goriot, and the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes.

The Richland County Public Library's reference service receiving the Columbia Record's editorial commendation.

The Anderson County Library bookmobile featured in the October issue of Quills, an Abney Mills publication.

Bryan Roberts, State Library Board Reference Consultant, arranging an exhibit of books of interest to business and industry for the "open house" held in the Lexington County Library on October 12. On this occasion the library also had an exhibit of products of the various industries in the county.

Attractive small exhibits from Aiken-Barnwell-Edgefield, Anderson, Greenville, and Greenwood on display at the Service to Children Workshop at The Clemson House.

Miss Emily Sanders and Miss Margaret Mosimann attending the Personnel Conference held at L.S.U. Library School, Baton Rouge, La.

#### ADVICE

Towns interested in business growth should make sure they have adequate schools, good libraries, fair taxes, fair labor laws, and a neat appearance. This is the advice of Erwin D. Canham, President of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and Editor of the Christian Science Monitor.